

August 10, 2022

The Honourable Sean Fraser, PC, MP  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



**Sent via email**

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), and our 400,000 members across the country, to raise my concern about the situation of Danilo de Leon. Danilo, chairperson of Migrante Canada, is facing deportation on August 29.

In 2009, Danilo came to Edmonton from the Philippines as a temporary foreign worker, where he began working for a cleaning company. Since that time, Danilo has been [a strong advocate](#) for human rights in his workplace and for migrant workers' rights in Alberta and in Canada. He has spent 13 years living in Canada and making valuable contributions to his community.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how essential migrant workers like Danilo are to our economy and to our communities. And yet, too often they face inhumane conditions and discrimination. These workers deserve the same rights, benefits, and opportunities as non-migrant workers.

Now without status, Danilo is facing deportation. If Danilo is forced to return to the Philippines, he could face political persecution for his beliefs and advocacy. The Philippines' Anti-Terrorism Act, which has been strongly criticized by human rights advocates and experts, could be applied to Danilo's advocacy for migrant and human rights. [NUPGE has previously raised concerns with the Minister of Foreign Affairs' office](#) about the dire situation of political repression and human rights' violations in the Philippines.

I am writing to ask you to stop Danilo's deportation and to grant him permanent resident status. Indeed, I urge you to grant permanent resident status to all undocumented workers and people in Canada. I understand that your office is currently working on a plan to regularize status for undocumented workers, which is welcome news, and we will be following up on this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent situation.

Sincerely,

Bert Blundon  
President

cc: The Hon. Marco Mendicino, PC, MP, Minister of Public Safety  
Jason MacLean, Secretary-Treasurer  
National Executive Board